

## NEW HALL SWIMMING GALA

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March, forty members of the Prep Swimming team travelled to New Hall School to compete in what New Hall later referred to as the 'most exciting gala they have had in years'. The races were so close with only a fingertip separating first and second place. Last year we had five 1<sup>st</sup> place individual swims; this year we increased that tally to eleven! Congratulations go to Kunmi Adebayo, Lois Dawney, Blake Goodfellow, Nathan Adeyemo-Dakoh and Harry Cartwright. Maia Fisher, Finlay Jones, Dhiya Venkateswaran hit the double, winning both of their individual races. The Prep 1 and Beta boys' teams, won their Freestyle Relays. In the end New Hall went on to win on points. This was the Alphas first gala. They have all been working so well in their lessons and during training with many of them seeing a fourteen second improvement in their times - brilliant! With so many fantastic performances there are so many children to mention, but I would like to congratulate all of the team.

Susan Cheshire

## CROSS COUNTRY

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 23 pupils went to the Woodford Green Prep School Cross Country Meeting. The course was 1500m or 1000m depending on age. We had to run in a straight line down to the Winston Churchill statue and run around it, through trees and turn left to go back to the start line. We had to do this twice. Individual medals went to Mieszko Watson (Gold - U9 Boys), Kofi Adjei (Silver - U11 Boys) and Lucy Fox (Bronze - U11 girls). Team medals went to U9 Boys (Gold), U11 Boys (Bronze) and U11 girls (Gold). U9 girls also did very well but didn't manage to win a medal. Overall Bancroft's came second, well done to all the cross country runners.

Finlay Jones BKY



## CUBS SWIMMING GALA

On Saturday 11th March, some chosen children took part in the Cubs' District Swimming Gala at Fulwell Cross. I took part in the Under 9 ½'s Breast Stroke contest and came FIRST in the finals, winning myself a gold medal. It was such an easy race for me as the breast stroke is my strongest and preferred stroke which took me way ahead and into the lead effortlessly. Acquiring the gold medallist title felt amazing! My friends, Mieszko Watson, Amit Bhat, Gautam Natarajan and Alvah Sebyala did fantastically too. They took part in the Relay race and also won themselves medals. The team spirit was high and we all swam amazingly. Unfortunately Bancroft's Cubs came second position overall, but we enjoyed the Gala very much. The cheering echo in the pool was very encouraging. We aspire to win first position in the next Swimming Gala. Well done, boys!

Riyaan Oudara BKY

## BETA HOCKEY V BISHOP'S STORTFORD

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March, all the Beta boys played hockey fixtures against Bishop's Stortford College.

The A team played a very close match. Bishop's Stortford scored a goal in the first half, but we came back with two excellent goals in the second half scored by myself and William Jamieson. Sadly Finlay Jones suffered an injury in the first half and was substituted. The final score was 2-1 to Bancroft's.

Theo Jayaraj BLD

The Barbarians drew 1-1 after a close match. It was a magnificent goal scored by Ben Peters, but it was quickly followed by Bishop's Stortford. The game continued to be close, but neither team scored again.

Samuel Vohmann BLD

I was playing for the Crusaders, and my teammates were: Henry Hitching, Sabhay Anand, Zaki Ali, Muhammad Ammaar Hurzuk, Miles Watson, Eddie Jiang, Sebastian Knuckey and Luca Bennett. We all played as hard as we could and put up a hard fight with 3 shots at the goal, but unfortunately it was a Bishop's Stortford win: 3-0. We ended a great game of hockey with crisps, orange juice and a Kit-Kat!

Arjan Sandhu BSS

The Destroyers also played a very competitive match. Everyone played well and Vedant Prabhakar was an excellent goalkeeper making several saves. Benji Shamrakov scored the only goal of the match and Bishop's Stortford won 4-1. We all had good fun.

Jonathan Visan Gherghe BLD

# PREP HEADLINES

EDITION: 202



MARCH 2017

## FRENCH DAY



On Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March the Prep became L'Ecole de France! The day began with a traditional continental breakfast. Our Head Chef Marc Stephan provided hot pain au chocolat and croissants for the children, with jus d'orange and le chocolat chaud. Then the children went to a range of morning activities which were cross-curricular. There were many activities on offer throughout the morning, the Alphas had fun in Maths investigating sequences that could be made with the Tricolore; in the Betas the children recreated the artwork of Matisse and investigated famous French personalities. The Prep 1 children made some fantastic storyboards based on the animation, 'La Belle et la Bête' which is set in Paris, whilst the Prep 2s used their vocabulary of directions, together with their knowledge of bearings in Maths, to find their way around a map of Disneyland Paris! In Music the children learnt to sing and dance along to 'Jean Petite Qui Danse'. Meanwhile, Mr Harrison had the children running around in Games matching sporting vocabulary in relay races and Miss Johnson taught hockey in French! After lunch the hall looked beautiful as the children sat patiently in their red, white and blue attire ready to watch 'Shipwrecked In France' by the Onatti Theatre Company. This was a hilarious production that brought the language alive for the children. It was accessible for them as they had been learning much of the vocabulary in the lead up to this special day. Afterwards, everyone was treated to an authentic French pastry from the patisserie counter, as long as they asked in French!

It was an amazing day and I was so impressed with the attempts made by the children to speak in French. Bravo à tout le monde.

Jusqu'à la prochaine fois...

Sarah Strong



I was very proud of the children who attended this week's School Council meeting. We spoke about ways the School could be a better neighbour to those who live in our locality; we also discussed initiatives we could try to help the environment. Naturally, perhaps, we ended up talking about traffic in and around our school site! The twelve council members decided that during one week next term they want to make a gesture which will hopefully inspire their classmates, their teachers and their parents too. They said that for this one week they will walk to school, cycle, ride a scooter, travel by bus or be part of a car share. They will also put on high vis jackets and act as traffic monitors both around the turning circle and on the streets outside (we'll ensure they're properly supervised, of course). Their job will be to point out where motorists can and can't park; they'll also be encouraging those who are waiting in the queue inside the turning circle to turn off their engines to protect the environment and the children's own health. The teachers who work with the School Council were inspired by the children's enthusiasm. We've decided that we will join them. It would be wonderful if the whole school community could help them to make a difference too.

*Joe Layton*

## MUSIC AND MUNCH

The concert on 17th March was a Music and Munch with a difference. Instead of a series of prepared solos, the concert opened with the String Orchestra playing beautifully two traditional pieces inspired by Scotland. The playing was extremely solid with a lovely strong sense of ensemble. Thank you to Mr End and Mr Bailey for preparing them so well. The concert then proceeded with some delightful solos, including Frank Williams playing 'Danny Boy' on St Patrick's Day. The concert finished with a challenging duet from Lucy Fox and Samah Butt on flute and clarinet. It illustrated to younger members the importance of practice. It was a lovely concert and a charming way to lead us into the weekend.

Adam Baum

## ALPHA NATURE WALK



On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March the Alphas went to the woods for a nature walk to support our work in Science. We had a clipboard with a list of things we had to check off as we saw them. We saw lots of trees and fallen leaves. There were lots of pretty birds. We were put into groups of four and only one group of five. Some parents kindly came to help out as we needed some extra pairs of hands. We got a couple of scratches, but we just ignored it because we were having too much fun! We saw lots of interesting sights like daffodils and a wasp! It was such a lovely afternoon having a walk in the forest.

Emma Diebel and Hareena Giretharan ASB

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

On Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> February, two teams of four, made up of two pupils from each year group, went to Forest School to take part in a general knowledge quiz. Practice rounds of general knowledge questions were completed in class and the top scorers, Charlotte Elliott AEN; Ciaran Farnan ACB; Luca Bennett BLD; Zaki Ali BKY; Gautam Natarajan 1BR; Deeya Arora 1HS; Samah Butt 2LP and myself, were selected to represent Bancroft's. There were forty questions each worth 20, 40, 60, 80, or 100 points. The questions were extremely hard and you were not allowed to change your answer once you had pressed the button. We did very well with one team coming fifth and the other team coming seventh. Thank you to Miss Ellery for organising the event.

Parin Naik 2LE

## BIKEABILITY

Bikeability is a cycle training programme. It is about gaining practical skills and understanding how to cycle on today's roads. Bikeability gives everyone skills and confidence. Over the last three weeks several pupils from Prep 1 and 2 worked towards their Level 2 badge. We trained in small groups of 6. We had to ride on local streets which gave us a real cycling experience. Some of the many skills we covered were preparing for on-road cycling and making sure our bikes were safe; starting and finishing on-road journeys and recognising typical hazards. I noticed road signs I had not noticed before and became much more aware of things around me. I learnt how it is important to let other road users know what I am about to do and knowing where to position myself on the road, especially when passing parked vehicles and side roads. I now know how to deal with traffic on short journeys such as cycling to school or the local shops. This has been such a useful experience and I recommend everyone to do it if they get the chance. A big thank you to Mrs Life for organising the course and to our trainers, Lawrence and Louis. Thank you, finally, to all the teachers for giving up their weekends so that the course could be held at school. It was really beneficial and now I feel safer, super-fit and streetwise.

Aurora Strong 1LL



## CITIZENSHIP TRAINING

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, we visited the Hargreaves Scout Camp. We had nine different activities which were all to do with keeping safe on buses, trains and cars and dealing with robberies. Our favourite was the robbery; Olivia Moncur described it as 'terrifying but exciting'. Our task was to make a phone call to the police. We were sent outside to practise what we were going to say when suddenly a mysterious looking man approached us. We instantly reacted and had to call for the police! We found out that it wasn't real, however, we learnt a lot about what we should do if that happens. The main thing we learned is that we should never run after a thief as it could have serious consequences. Other activities included learning about CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). There was a lot more activities than we expected and we loved the trip. Thank you to all the teachers for organising this trip!

Samah Butt and Anavi Shah 2LP



## RED NOSE DAY!



Assembly on Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> was a sea of red noses bought by the children in support of this year's Comic Relief fundraiser. A joke box - red of course (and with its own red nose attached!) had been installed outside the school office the week before, into which the children could post their funniest and cheesiest jokes. To get the day off with a laugh, Mr Layburn read a selection of them out in a giggle-fest of an assembly. Our head teacher is a big fan of cartoons and jokes involving snails, so he was naturally delighted to find such an entry when he opened up the joke box.

'I took the shell off my racing snail in the hope of making it go faster. If anything it made it more sluggish!'

Our young Bancroftians clearly appreciate some of the old Tommy Cooper gags:

'I asked a gym instructor if he could teach me to do the splits. He said, 'How flexible are you?' I said, 'I can't do Tuesdays!'

There were knock, knock jokes aplenty, the cheesiest and best arguably coming from Ciaran Farnan in ACB:

'Knock knock,'

'Who's there?'

'Cowsgo,'

'Cowsgowho?'

'No, silly, cows go MOO!'



As well as all the red noses the children bought, they also brought in donations for the various good causes helping children at home and overseas. In addition to the contributions the children made when buying their noses, we raised a grand total of £245.30 on the day!

Lisa Life

## IAPS CONCERT

Celebrating 125 years of IAPS (Independent Association of Preparatory Schools), this is a wonderful opportunity for your son or daughter to take part in this summer course culminating in a concert at Malvern College on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July. The standard of Young NSSO (National Schools Symphony Orchestra) is approx Grades 3-5, though not essential and friendly auditions can take place at our school. All instruments are welcome. For more information about the course and a potential bursary, please go to their website at [www.nssso.org](http://www.nssso.org)

Adam Baum

## THE BOOK FAIR

This year we decided to run the book fair during form times so there would be less impact on parents collecting pupils. This seemed to work quite well as all children had a chance to see the books including those with after school clubs.

Children bought lots of books at this fair and spent £1299.40, which raised £779.40 in commission. This was spent on buying more beautiful new books for the library and the classrooms!

Kathryn Houghton—Prep School Librarian



New Beta books!

## A FLYING VISIT!



As part of the Senior School CCF (Combined Cadet Force) Biennial review a naval Merlin helicopter was scheduled to arrive at school on Tuesday. We heard it arrive before we saw it! It landed on the field (the cricket square itself was safe!). We were waiting on the tennis courts and were nearly blown away when it flew over, the downdraft was very strong and the noise was phenomenal! A few children then went to meet Lt White and his crew and have a closer look around. I found out that the rotor blades turned at an acute angle. Also it was interesting to learn that the propeller at the back stops the helicopter spinning round and keeps it level. The ramp of the helicopter can be open while it is moving! We got to go into the back of the helicopter and have a good look around. It was very big and fun. I also sat in the cockpit, there were a lot of levers and screens to show what direction to go in. It would be fun to fly one. It was a great experience! Next time I am hoping for a Chinook or a fly-past from the Red Arrows!

James Hitching 2LE